<u>Abstract</u>

The present invention discloses a methods and systems for securely connecting mobile nodes to an internal private network using IPsec based Virtual Private Network (VPN) technology. The system employs a proxy home agent (PHA) coupled to a home network associated with a mobile node that is located within a secure network, a home agent (HA) that is located outside of the secure network, and a VPN gateway to provide VPN services to a mobile device that changes its current address during the VPN session. The HA and PHA are configured to provide Mobile IP Home Agent functionality through a distributed system.

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